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DAVID J. VALESKY
SENATOR, 53RD DISTRICT

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December 11, 2015

Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Internet access has become so integrated into our lives that it's hard to imagine how we'd conduct work, make calls, and communicate without it. As we've become ever more reliant on broadband access, the challenge increasingly is not just access—it's also affordability.

Competition generally drives down prices, but given the complexity of the infrastructure that supports broadband in New York, there's a point in the system that sees very little competition and that drives up prices—the so-called "special access" lines that make up the backbone of the Internet. A majority of these lines are controlled primarily by only two companies.

Fees charged on these special access lines that drives up costs and inhibits innovation—to the tune of billions of dollars every year across the country...this is money that my business and our clients could use to reinvest in our companies.

I know the FCC has been studying the lack of competition in special access lines since 2005. I am hopeful the commission will soon act to facilitate competition and a more open market.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David J. Valesky".

David J. Valesky
State Senator
53rd Senate District

DJV/sb